Construction of Airport at Jharsuguda

11880. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATiON be pleased to state:

whether he has made any. declaration for construction of an airport at Jharsuguda in Orissa during his recent visit to the State;

whether there is any proposal to name this airport after famous freedom fighter Vir Surendra Sai;

the total number of airports and runways in operation in the State; and

whether there is any proposal to grant International status to Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) On a request from State Government of Orissa, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to revive Jharsuguda airport in Orissa in phases subject to the State Government providing additional land required for the development of the airport free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

The general policy for renaming of airport give emphasis to retain the name of cities for domestic airports, since passengers in general and especially foreign tourists and other visitors who may not be familiar with the local history find it easier to identify, the airport, when it is named after the city, which it serves.

Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar is operational airport in the State of Orissa having two runways of length 2743 metres and 1370 metres respectively.

Presently, there is no proposal to declare it as an International airport. However, this airport is one of the 35 non-metro airports taken up for development and upgradation by AAI.

Development of Kanpur Airport

1881. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that passengers of an Allahabad-bound Air India flight had a narrow escape as the aircraft hit a Neel Gai (blue bull) shortly after landing at the Ahirwa Airport at Kanpur;

if so, the details thereof;

the action being taken to development Kanpur Airport and to introduce airbuses there; and

the action being taken to provide night landing facility at Kanpur Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) ATR-42 aircraft operating flight CD-7801 of 28.2.2008 on Delhi-Kanpur sector hit a Neel-Gai (Blue Bull) on landing roll at Kanpur at about 200 metres from touch down point. The aircraft suffered damage on the primary structure on right side of the nose and was subsequently moved on its own power to the civil termac to clear the runway. There was no injury to any one and the passengers were disembarked from the aircraft in the normal way.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.